EVENING GROSBEAK (male and female) ©
National Audubon Society

No. 36 Evening Grosbeak

An element of mystery has always surrounded the coming and going of these rare winter visitors whose boreal home is far beyond the usual haunts of man. They are very irregular and infrequent anywhere east of the Mississippi, but now and then remarkable flights have taken place. On such occasions the extreme tameness of the birds is always very noticeable. Like its relative, the pine grosbeak, this species wanders about in flocks of varying size during the winter, visiting districts of most abundant food supply. It feeds, to a great extent, upon buds and the seeds of trees.

The song is described as a "wandering, jerky warble, beginning low, suddenly increasing in power, and as suddenly ceasing as though the singer were out of breath."

The nest, known only from a few examples, is made of small twigs and rootlets, and placed low in trees or bushes. There are from three to five eggs, greenish-white, spotted with brown.

Scientific name: *Hesperiphona vespertina.*

Length: *8 inches.*

Range: Breeds in the mountains of western British Columbia and southward to Mexico; winters east of the Rocky Mountains, south irregularly to Kentucky and Ohio, and casually east to New England.

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